6.

A

# LETTER

FROM

## Captain John Tosier,

Commander of His Majesties Ship the

*HUNTER* at *JAMAICA.*

With a Narrative of his Embassy and Command in that Frigat to the Captain General and Governour of *Havannah*, to demand His Majesty of *Great Brittains* Subjects kept Prisoners there:

The Account and manner of their Delivery, with a List of their Names, and Times of Bondage.

AS ALSO,

The Miraculous Preservation of Fifteen *English* His Majesties Subjects, cast away and remaining Eighteen Days in a Long Boat at Sea in a sad condition, taken up by the said Captain *John Tosier.*

---

Printed in the Year 1679

A

# LETTER

FROM

## Captain John Foster.

Commander of his Majesties Ship the

## HUNTER at JAMAICA.

With a Narrative of his Embassy and Command in that Primate to the Captain General and Governour of *Hispaniola*, to demand His Majesty of *Great Brittains* Subjects kept Prisoners there:

The Account and number of their Delivery, with a List of their Names, and Times of Bondage.

AS ALSO

The Miraculous Preservation of Fifteen *English* His Majesties Subjects, cast away and remaining Eighteen Days in a Long Boat at Sea in a sad condition, taken up by the said Captain *John Foster*.

---

Printed in the Year 1679

# *A Letter from Captain* John Tosier, *Commander of His Majesties Ship the* Hunter *at* Jamaica; *with a Narrative of his Embassy and Command in that Frigat to the Captain General and Governour of* Havannah.

*SIR,*

I Have received your most welcom Letters, and they came not to my hand till the 20*th*. Instant, because of my being at Sea: For by vertue of his Excliencies the Earl of *Carlisle* Captain General and Governor of *Jamaica*'s order, I sailed from hence the 25*th*. of *January* last, (as well in Quality of Embassador, as that of my Command) for *Havannah* to demand from the Captain General of that place His Majesties Subjects of *Great Britain*, which were kept worse Slaves then those of *Argiers*, and so often denyed to several persons of Quality, which have been sent Embassadors from time to time, with Frigats of Fifty Guns and upwards. I gave you some account of this my last; and was much troubled in order to the management of so great an affair and of a concern as that was, (but God be thanked) to the honour of my Master the King of *England*, for whose service, if I had a 1000 lives, I would sacrifice them all, I obtained that success which was not expected from me by any: For the *Spaniards* were never known to have delivered any *English* that they took in the *West Indies* before now. And thousands of people would have ventured most of their Estates against that success

which I brought home with me (blesſed be God) for the honour of His Majeſty and the *Engliſh* Nation, and the great ſatisfaction of my Lord and all *Jamaica*; all which has here been acknowledged for a great peice of ſervice, done not only for the preſent but future good, there never having been the like preſident before: The Particular of which ſhort Negotiation I have here incloſed, ſent you with a Liſt of their Names, to which I refer you.

The next day after I received the Priſoners on board, It pleaſed God further to Crown our ſucceſs by the Preſervation of Captain *Joſeph Graves* and 14 of his men (all His Majeſties Subjects) who were in a long Boat, and had been caſt away eighteen dayes before thirty Leagues to the Eaſtward of the *Havannah*, and expected nothing but to be utterly loſt, or to be Slaves in the *Havannah* at the beſt. Captain *Graves* ſailed hence a Month before I went out, and was bound for *London*; I believe he will come and ſee you, and give you thanks for my kindneſs to him which he owned here.

The great goodneſs of God is to be obſerved herein, for the firſt time I ſaw this man, he was Dr—— and did ſo much abuſe me, that I could hardly endure it, but I was withheld: Yet that it ſo happened I ſhould be an Inſtrument to preſerve him, you may imagine the great joy we had on Board, I for my good fortune in this undertaking; the poor Slaves for their deliverance, and Captain *Graves* with his fourteen men for their preſervation in all their perils. Between them our Ship got two Names in two dayes, the firſt was the *Bleſſing* of *England* by the Slaves of *Havannah*, and the ſecond the *Preſervation* by the Wrackt men.

And though this Voyage is never made in leſs then three Months and ſometimes in four: We (putting our ſelves to ½. allowance, having 61 of his Majeſties loſt Subjects on Board, beſides our complement of men) made our Voyage in ſeven weeks and three dayes. My love and kindneſs to —— *&c.*

SIR,

*I reſt Your Affectionate Friend and Servant.*

JOHN TOSIER.

Port-Royal *in* Jamaica the 28*th.* of March 1679.

On

ON the 23th. of *January* 167$\frac{4}{5}$. I Sailed from *Port-Royal* in *Jamaica* for the *Havannah*, upon the North-side of *Cuba*, with Orders to demand His Majesties Subjects that were there Prisoners. On the 11th. of *February* I arrived upon the Coast, where I lay off and on two dayes for a settled Weather; on the 13th. I Sailed within two Miles of the *Moors* Castle, with our Courses in the Brailes, and our Top Sails a Trip, Jack, Ancient and Pendant flying, and sent in my Boat ashore with my List, and Mr. *Richard Bere* his Excellency the Earl of *Carlisles* Gentleman of the Horse, who was sent my Interpreter to the Governour; as soon as they were within command, the Guard of the *Moors* Castle commanded them ashore, and put a Serjeant and Souldiers on Board them, who Guarded them up to the Governour, and left another Guard upon the Boat, that none of the men should come on Shore: I sent by them his Excellencies Letter to the Governour, and to show my Sailing Orders, and to desire his Excellencies leave to enter into, and depart out of that Port of the *Havannah* with the King of *Englands* Frigat under my Command at my pleasure, and to have my Salutes answered Gun for Gun: As soon as this was read, the Governour answered them, that all those of the Kings Subjects there, were Pirats, and therefore would deliver none; and as to my coming in, he was very willing, but he must put a Guard upon the Kings Ship; and Salutes, he could not answer so much as one Gun; and then bidding them go three times out of his house, sent them Guarded away to the Boat, and so forced them to Sea at seven a Clock at Night, and very dark upon a dangerous Coast, where they Boagged all Night, whilst I stood off and in, not thinking they would turn them out so late: The next Morning at Six a Clock I took up the Boat with this answer, and at Nine sent them ashore again, with full Power and Instruction to tell him, that His Majesties Ship under my command is well Man'd, where he might be very safe and welcome if he would vouchsafe to give her his Company; and that His Majesty of *England* never spared his Powder to answer Civilities, nor received such Indignities as

Waiters

Waiters or Guards on Board any of His Majesties Ships of War, which will be a strange report, when His Majesty shall come to hear of it. And to tell him further, that though I with His Majesties Frigat cannot be admitted upon Honourable Terms, that I sent him word, that his Excellency *Charles* Earl of *Carlisle*, Captain General and Governour of *Jamaica*, hath commanded me one of the Captains of His Majestie of *Great Brittains* Ships of War, attending that His Majesties Island of *Jamaica*, to desire his Excellency in the King of *England's* Name, and in obedience to the Order of the Catholick King, all the Subjects of His most Excellent Majesty, that are detained Prisoners at the *Havannah*, that they be forthwith set at Liberty, and delivered to me, to be Transported to the Territories of the King of *England*.

With several other directions, in case of a further denyal to demand a sight of their Commitment upon Record: If Pirats, to send them for *Old Spain*, and there to be Tryed, and not to be kept in perpetual Slavery; relating the several Complaints made to the King and Councel, of their most barbarous usage to our Nation here with the force of Authority, when at the same time we treat them with all tender kindness in the World, *&c.*

But before this Latter discourse was ended, the Governour caused the Prisoners to be called over in a back Court near his house, and examined some of them, one after another; who before he had done, said, though I have no order to deliver them to you, and that I may be blamed, yet take them all with you, and if there be any more, let them come forth immediatly and they shall be discharged, at which Declaration, they all being 36. in number, gave such Cheer-ho, that they made the house ring, saying, God bless the Blessing of *England*, which they called our Ship; immediatly I hoisted out the long Boat, and had them all on Board in less then three hours: Whereupon I set Sail the next day for the Bay of *Mettance* to Water, and so to *Port-Royal*, where I arrived the 20*th* day of *March* following, to the great satisfaction of all men here.

A

*A List of all His Majesties Subjects that were Prisoners at* Havannah, *and received on Board His Majesties Ship the* Hunter, *under the Command of Captain* John Tosier, *lying off and on before the Harbour, on* February 14. 167$\frac{4}{5}$. *And the next day entred into Victualing at half allowance.*

| | | Yrs. | Mths. | | | Y. | M. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | *Mr. William Winford* | 2 | 6 | 24 | *Gilbert Dike.* | 2 | 7 |
| 2 | *James Pung.* | 2 | 8 | 25 | *John Alexander.* | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | *Francis Redmin.* | 5 | | 26 | *John Woodcock.* | 2 | 7 |
| 4 | *Thomas Richardson.* | 5 | 6 | 27 | *James Hall.* | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | *John Evans.* | 6 | 7 | 28 | *Morris Smith.* | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | *Thomas Cock.* | 6 | 7 | 29 | *Henry Webber.* | 2 | 6 |
| 7 | *Ralph Graves.* | 5 | 6 | 30 | *William Owens.* | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | *Jonas Johnson.* | 5 | 6 | 31 | *Patrick Cairney.* | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | *Ambrose Brown.* | 6 | | 32 | *Thomas Mason.* | 2 | 1 |
| 10 | *John Kenneday.* | 5 | 6 | 33 | *John West.* | 2 | 1 |
| 11 | *Robert Peppin.* | 5 | 6 | 34 | *Benjamin Willis.* | 2 | 5 |
| 12 | *Nicholas Gunniop.* | 4 | 5 | 35 | *Nicholas Stonning.* | 2 | 5 |
| 13 | *Thomas Macket.* | 4 | 7 | 36 | *Cornelius Laeblon.* | 2 | 5 |
| 14 | *Peter Watson.* | 4 | 7 | 37 | *Thomas Loind.* | 1 | 9 |
| 15 | *Thomas Hall.* | 4 | | 38 | *Noah Parker.* | 1 | 9 |
| 16 | *Richard Harris.* | 4 | | 39 | *Thomas Butler.* | 1 | 9 |
| 17 | *John Vaughan.* | 3 | 3 | 40 | *Ambrose Rose.* | 1 | 9 |
| 18 | *Robert Mercum.* | 3 | 3 | 41 | *John Horn.* | 1 | 10 |
| 19 | *Joseph Rivers.* | 5 | | 42 | *Hugh May.* | 1 | 3 |
| 20 | *Richard Merrington.* | 3 | 3 | 43 | *Thomas Bishop.* | 1 | 3 |
| 21 | *Ambrose Henfree.* | 3 | 3 | 44 | *Thomas Maynder.* | 1 | 3 |
| 22 | *Robert Chiffin.* | 2 | 10 | 45 | *Thomas Rous.* | 1 | 3 |
| 23 | *Robert Middleton.* | 2 | 10 | 46 | *George Winch.* | 1 | 3 |

FINIS.

A List of all His Majesties Subjects that were Prisoners at Havannah, and received on Board His Majesties Ship the Hunter, under the Command of Captain John Potter, Ning off and on before the Harbour, on February 14, 1573. And the next day entred into Victualing at half allowance.

| | | Yrs. | Mths. | | Y. | M. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mr. William Winsord | 2 | 6 | 24 Gilbert Dik. | 2 | 7 |
| 2 | James Pang. | 2 | 8 | 25 John Alexander. | 2 | 7 |
| 3 | Francis Redmain. | 5 | | 26 John Woodcock. | 2 | 7 |
| 4 | Thomas Richardson. | 5 | 6 | 27 James Hall. | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | John Evans. | 6 | 7 | 28 Morris Smith. | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | Thomas Cock. | 6 | 7 | 29 Henry Webber. | 2 | 6 |
| 7 | Ralph Graves. | 5 | 6 | 30 William Owens. | 2 | 6 |
| 8 | Jonas Johnson. | 5 | 6 | 31 Patrick Caleney. | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | Ambrose Brown. | 6 | | 32 Thomas Mason. | 2 | 1 |
| 10 | John Kennedey. | 5 | 6 | 33 John West. | 2 | 1 |
| 11 | Robert Peppin. | 5 | 6 | 34 Benjamin Willis. | 2 | 5 |
| 12 | Nicholas Gunnop. | 4 | 5 | 35 Nicholas Stonning. | 2 | 5 |
| 13 | Thomas Mackey. | 4 | 7 | 36 Cornelius Lachlan. | 2 | 5 |
| 14 | Peter Watson. | 4 | 7 | 37 Thomas Loind. | 1 | 9 |
| 15 | Thomas Hall. | 4 | | 38 Noah Parker. | 1 | 9 |
| 16 | Richard Harris. | 4 | | 39 Thomas Butler. | 1 | 9 |
| 17 | John Vaughan. | 3 | 3 | 40 Ambrose Rose. | 1 | 9 |
| 18 | Robert Mercum. | 3 | 3 | 41 John Horn. | 1 | 10 |
| 19 | Joseph Rivers. | 5 | | 42 Hugh May. | 1 | 3 |
| 20 | Richard Merrington. | 3 | 3 | 43 Thomas Bishop. | 1 | 3 |
| 21 | Ambrose Henfree. | 3 | 3 | 44 Thomas Mayrder. | 1 | 3 |
| 22 | Robert Chiffin. | 2 | 10 | 45 Thomas Rous. | 1 | 3 |
| 23 | Robert Middleton. | 2 | 10 | 46 George Winch. | 1 | 3 |

FINIS.

12451